Occasion may be the bugle call that summons an army to battle, but the blast of a bugle can never make a soldier win victories.

Those who are quite satisfied, sit still and do nothing; those who are not quite satisfied, are the sole benefactors of the world.

AMERICAN FISH OVER IN EUROPE

The Transported Fry Flourish and Multiply In Their New Home.

OUR SALMON IN SCOTLAND

It Threatens to Supplant the Native Fish and is a Case of the Survival of the Fittest.

Scientific American.

Many tourists who will attend the Paris Exposition next summer need not be surprised if they find on the bills of fare of the leading European hotels such items as "American black bass," "American salmon" or "American muskallonge." It should not be hastily concluded that these items are put there for deceptive purposes or that they refer to canned or dried American fish. They are in reality true statements of facts, and indicate the growth of our fishing interests under the wise and progressive supervision of the United States fish commission. During the last summer American fish, fresh from the water, appeared on the tables of European hotels devoted especially to catering to American tourists.

In order to appreciate the full meaning of this it is necessary to glance at a feature of the work planned years ago by the fish commission. A most thorough and painstaking effort was made then to collect all possible facts concerning our food fishes as a preliminary to adopting adequate methods for protecting and propagating young fry. This scientific study and experiment included an elaborate investigation of the food plants of fish in inland waters, the cause of famines and years of plenty, and the relative chances of certain varieties of fish in strange waters in reaching maturity.

In propagating the young fry for restocking the streams, bays and rivers experiments were made to see how well they thrived in waters far removed from the natural habitat. This experiment proved of great commercial value to the country. Inland waters that were almost destitute of fish are now teeming with millions of artificial propagated fry. In some of the new waters they have been transplanted to the food fishes have been found to thrive better than in the streams where they were found. The extension of this work to foreign waters was anticipated by the fish commission years ago purely as a scientific test. Consequently when they received intimations from the leading ichthyologists abroad that an exchange of native fry would be agreeable preparations were immediately made to send our fish to European countries.

The first experiment was made in Scotland with our landlocked salmon. The inland waters of Scotland presented conditions somewhat similar to those in which our salmon loved to disport, and, besides, there was a species of Scotch salmon native to the streams and lakes of that land. Young fry of our landlocked salmon were shipped to Scotland some ten years ago, and in that time they have been multiplying rapidly, much to the detriment of the Scotch salmon. The American salmon proved larger and stronger than their native cousins, and the Scotch is almost threatened with extinction by the growing rapacity and multiplication of the American landlocked salmon. On the whole, however, this is not to be regretted, for the American species furnishes more and better food than the Scotch salmon.

A shipment of American black bass fry was made to France for stocking the rivers and streams, and, like the American salmon in Scotch waters, they have flourished so marvelously that today they are quite common articles of diet at the French hotels and restaurants. The French streams since the introduction of American bass have doubled in their productive value, and there is every reason for the French anglers to be grateful to our American fish commission for stocking their waters with a new species of food fish. The French streams were practically deserted when the fry were introduced, and they had little difficulty in taking quick and complete possession of the waters.

Other varieties of fish have been shipped to France and other countries as scientific experiments. The American rock bass has been introduced in several English streams, and the American brook trout is today in flourishing condition in the clear, cold streams of Russia and other northern countries of Europe. The waters of Switzerland abound with many of our common river and brook fish, which make the angling there superior to anything in the past. It is even reported that the fine American muskallonge has found a satisfactory home in the Rhine and Danube rivers.

In return for these American food fishes we have received few foreign fry that have proved of any particular value. The attempt has been made to introduce the best of European fish in our waters, but as a rule, American fish are superior to any that Europe can produce, and we have not been greatly benefitted by the exchange. The Scotch salmon has been tried here, but holds but little promise of success in waters where the American salmon lives. There is reason to believe that we will be more benefitted in introducing the young fry of South American fish in our North American waters than any that can be brought from Europe. The conditions of ichthyology in the countries south of us, however, is such that it is difficult to secure the fry without sending an expedition after them. At present it seems as if we had sufficient varieties of fine, toothsome fish in our waters to satisfy the most fastidious epicure; but it is possible that in its scientific investigations with the fish from all parts of the world the commission may some day add to our fish diet some new species that will prove of enduring value. Meanwhile, the scientific search after facts concerning the food and habits of our American fish at home and abroad will enable the commission to handle the problem placed before them with more assurance of success. In the comparatively few years it has been laboring in the field it has accomplished results that are well known and of value alike to the consumer and the sportsman or professional fisherman. There are few scientific studies and experiments that show practical results sooner than that of fish culture.

The infinitely greatest confessed good is neglected to satisfy the successive uneasiness of our desires pursuing trifles.

HOW BRITISH OFFICERS FIGHT

THEIR EXPOSURE IN BATTLE

The Military Value of Such Display Depends Upon Circumstances

Ambros Bierce.

Accompanying the first reports of the British-Boer engagement at Elandslaagte were some interesting figures regarding the losses of men and officers on the British side. It sems that in proportion to their numbers five times as many officers as enlisted men were killed and three times as many wounded. In all battles between civilized forces there is a disproportionate mortality among officers, but these figures are uncommon. They are explained in the dispatches by the traditions of the British army," which deny to a commissioned officer the advantage of taking cover. When the men are ordered to lie down the officer remains on his feet, a conspicuous, isolated target for the enemy's rifles. In the action at Elandslaagte (I wish I could feel sure that that was anything like the real name of the place) the British tactics, as determined as those of the enemy and by the nature of the ground, were peculiarly unfavorable to longevity among officers. The fighting lasted all day, the attack on the Boer position consuming several hours, during which the British lines advanced foot by foot across open ground, frequently aligning and lying down to rest or deliver volleys. Exposure of officers in these circumstances was constant and hazardous. The wonder is that any of those in the charging line came out of the affair with whole skins.

I do not know with what degree of authority the "traditions" forbid the British officers to lie down or take cover. If it is really an inviolable law among them they pay pretty well for their rank and dignity. But I fancy the matter is very much as it is in our own regular army: that the "tradition" exists not as a hard and fast law, but as a historical suggestion, a good deal of latitude being allowed in its observance. Perhaps it is something of the same limitation of meaning that abstention from profanity had to a certain gentleman whose besetting sin it had been, but who, snatched as a brand from the burning, had "joined the church." One day a deacon of his congregation overheard him uttering in anger an interminable sequence of the most awful oaths conceivable. "What," exclaimed the shocked hierarch, interrupting, "do you not propose to observe the third commandment?" "Yes I do," answered the culprit, exhausted by his own volubility, "but not so rigidly that I'll be tempted to break it."

In the fighting about Santiago de Cuba the mortality among officers of the regular army was very great. The volunteer officers, I think, suffered less severely. In the volunteers there are no traditions of any kind to be observed, and in the regulars fewer and less exacting ones than in the historic regiments of the British. Some of these organizations are centuries old, with "records" in scores of wars—records as dear to officers and men as if they had themselves personally participated in all the campaigns and engagements of the organizations to which they belong. The regiments have, moreover, historic names, not merely meaningless numbers, as in our army. As a nucleus for honors and glorious memories an arithmetical designation hardly serves. The hope of associating things of that kind with a set of figures is as futile as an attempt to bestow the Victoria Cross upon a moonbeam. A further reason why such heroic nonsense as refusal under all circumstances to take cover from the enemy's fire may prevail in British more than in American service is found in the higher social rank of the average British officer. The officers of our regular army are mostly gentlemen, but a majority of them began to be gentlemen pretty late in life—most of them when they entered the military academy; whereas the English officer, as a rule, is a gentleman born, not made. It makes a difference—not perhaps in courage, but in that punctilious observance of the "proprieties" of which the custom under consideration is merely an example. Plebeian gallantry is disposed to be practical and logical. When needful it rages lionwise in the forefront of battle; during seasons of inactivity it is not unmindful of the value to his country of an officer's life, nor insensible to the advantages of social obscurity at home. The gallantry that manifests itself under fire by standing lone and conspicuous, unconcernedly rolling cigarettes, is distinctly patrician.

As to the military value of that sort of thing—I mean its direct and immediate effectiveness in contributing to victory—much depends upon circumstances. That an officer's visible coolness and apparent unconcern does much to tranquilize the men if they are excited and hearten them if demoralized goes without saying; and men do get terribly excited in battle and terribly demoralized when it is going against them. Whether in any particular engagement this tranquillizing effect is worth the lives lost in securing it—that is a matter for omniscience, wherewith military writers are not abundantly equipped. Among the less obvious advantages of the "tradition" that it is an officer's duty to encourage his men by getting himself killed is that of promoting promotion.

Something of the tactical advantage of personal exposure to peril is undeniable; for whether it is real or imaginary no one with a decent weakness for the heroic will deny it. Such an instance was that of Hancock on the third day at Gettysburg. For an unconscionable time Lee had been preparing the way for Picket's memorable charge by the concentrated fire of one hundred and fifty guns against the federal center. So searching was this awful fire that those who had not the good luck to be killed by it flattened themselves like soles and actually bored into the earth to escape it. Horses, guns, caissons, ammunition, wagons—everything movable except the men—were rushed over the crest of the ridge for such protection as was possible where half the torment came from above. It seemed as if not even a blade of grass could lift its head and not be shorn from its root. At that intolerable time Gen. Hancock mounted his horse and at the head of a cavalcade of reluctant staff officers and orderlies (poor fellows) rode slowly along the ridge distinctly visable to every Confederate gunner. He gave no commands; none were necessary and none could have been heard; but the icy effrontery of the performance put new hearts into those flattened men and Pickett was beaten before he charged. But if all the officers on that ridge had had the presumption to be heroic the Confederate historian might have recorded the outcome with a more jubilant pen.

I know not how it was in the war with Spain, nor how it is in the war with Aguinaldo, but among the volunteers of the war of the first rebellion there was no law, written or unwritten forbidding officers to take cover. Most of them habitually did so when their men did, and, so far as I could observe without loss of prestige or respect. Always there were visable in action a few who, as a rule, did not, excepting, of course, in the defense of fortified lines. These non-conformists were subject to frequent rebuke by superior authority the command "Lie down, sir!" or "Take cover, sir!" having sometimes an added austerity from the circumstances of its delivery from the back of a horse. Commonly, however, when a collision in the open was visibly imminent the horses of field officers were sent to the rear, more, I think, to preserve them than their riders. So far as my memory serves, general officers during field fighting usually remained in the saddle when near the front. At the battle of Stone River Gen. Rosecrans sought to hearten up his hard pressed army by riding with his staff along the front, immediately in rear of the firing line. Unfortunately he deprived the performance of its expected effect by riding at a wild gallop, which, however, did not prevent his chief of staff from losing his head by a cannon shot. It was not the only head of that group that was lost that day, but it was the best one.

At Shiloh, during a pause in the fire of Hazen's brigade, the enemy, being sharp and incessant, a young lieutenant, as witty and as grave a man as the brigade contained, was standing behind a tree. A fat and fussy field officer passing by roared out:

"Lieutenant, what are you doing behind that tree?—behind that tree, sir?"

The offender left his cover, walked cooly up to his irascible superior and respectfully saluting replied:

"Sir, I have the honor to report that I was engaged in wishing that it grew in my father's pasture."

FINE OPENING.

The North Pacific Dental College, whose advertisement appears in another column, opened its doors October 5, with 75 students on its roster. The college is well equipped with every facility to graduate students in all the late knowledge of dentistry. A. R. Baker, D.D. S., is demonstrator in charge, and is well qualified to instruct all students who attend this college.

A POEM ON MANKIND.

Like what is man, but like a sprouting weed,
That grows and ripens but to cast its seed
Among the thistles and the tares of life
And then to see it strangled in the stife?
Or like the clouds that wander with the breeze
And pass unnoticed from a life of ease?
Or like a mushroom, sprung to life, alas!
To starve or strangle in the tangled grass?

These are thoughts that are apt to come to many people at times, especially when they are sick and have to pay big prices for medicines. But there is one drug store in Oregon where you can save from 10 to 25 per cent on everything you buy, and that is J. A. Clemenson's Drug Store, at 227 Yamhill street, Portland, Ore. At that store you can get Hood's Sarsaparilla at 70c; Mellen's Food, $1 size, 55c; Bromo Seltzer, $1 size, 70c, and everything else at the same low rate. You can get red trading stamps there, and if you need the Natural Body Brace, you can get it there.

LADIES' TAILOR-MADE SUITS.

Ladies who go to Portland and desire something especially fine in the way of tailor-made suits will do well to remember that they can be well fitted at I. D. Boyer's 177 Fourth street, in the Y. M. C. A. building.

Not only does he keep a strictly first-class cutter for men's wear, but also one exclusively for ladies' work, and all can rest assured of getting not only good work, but the best of materials, as Mr. Boyer is an expert on woolen cloths.

THEY CUT AND FIT.

Two Fashionable Furriers Who Are Earning Well-Merited Approval.

Good work, correct style and perfect fit speak louder for the furrier than any advertisement that can be written. Applegath & Prasil, the fashionable furriers, at 142 Third street, between Alder and Morrison, guarantee absolute satisfaction in every case where a purchase is made at their establishment. Both gentlemen are practical cutters and fitters, who have been employed in some of the largest houses in the principal cities of the United States. There is a style and finish to all work turned out by this firm that stamp both gentlemen experts in this business. Garments will be taken to be made over or repaired, and the work turned out with the least possible delay.

WHERE TO EAT.

Why at 'The Eastern,' of course. 170 Third St., Portland. You can get a good layout for 15 cents here, which will satisfy your hunger and bring you back again to the same place. Remember the Eastern.

Astoria Public Library

READING ROOM FREE TO ALL.

Open every day from 1 o'clock to 6:30 and 6:30 to 9:30 p. m.
Subscription rates $1 per annum.
West Cor. Eleventh and Duane Streets.

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